

THE ÆOLIAN MUSIC CLUB

THE value of extra-curricular activities on the college campus depends largely upon the work which the organization in question is able to accomplish. If the following questions can be answered in a satisfactory manner, the organization is worthy of its existence:

1. Does it aid in the proper development of the student?
2. Can the student, and does the student, contribute anything worthwhile to the organization?
3. Can the organization render a definite service to the campus? Is it rendering this service to the best of its ability?

The college organization which will be considered is the Aeolian Music Club in the State Teachers College at Harrisonburg. It was organized March 3, 1924. The need for such an organization had been felt for some time. Although there was a great deal of interest manifested on the part of both teachers and students in the work being done by the music department, yet there were a comparatively few students in applied music at that time. This condition was probably due to the fact that no credit was given for work of this character towards the degree conferred by the college. With an already overloaded schedule, it required extra effort on the part of the student to study music.

Even though this situation was undesirable, it probably fostered the rapid development of the organization. The students studying music did so because of the love they had for it and because they were interested in it. For them the practice period was often a happy escape from the work demanded by the daily routine. Their enthusiasm was only natural under these circumstances.

The idea of a musical organization on our campus was not a new one, for when the Aeolian Club was established the Glee Club, Choral Club and Orchestra were al-

ready doing commendable work. Each of these organizations was working for one phase of music, but none of them was as broad as we wished the Aeolian Club to be. Training, scholarship, and talent in music were the three characteristics which we considered essential to membership.

The question as to how we should obtain our members was a hard one, for in a school of six hundred girls we found that we did not know the girls well enough to judge their ability. We also felt that even though we might know the girl in question, we did not have the ability and the knowledge necessary to act in the capacity of critic. It was only natural that we looked to the music faculty for such aid as we might need in this direction. The result of this is that the names of prospective members are handed to the president of the Club. She then arranges for a meeting of the Club and the music faculty, and the applicant must pass her examination before this group. The examination has to be prepared beforehand, and a great deal more work has to be done than one would think, for each girl is expected to prepare much more than she actually plays.

These examinations may be taken for piano, pipe-organ, voice, or violin. Each instructor selects the material which she considers necessary for her applicant to work upon. Following are the forms for the examinations:

PIANO

I. Scales

A. Major

1. Different rhythms
 - a. Two to one
 - b. Three to one
 - c. Four to one
 - d. Three to two
2. Thirds, sixths, and tenths

B. Minor

1. Natural
2. Harmonic
3. Melodic

- C. Chords and arpeggios
- II. Studies
- A. *Czerny* Opus 299 or Opus 740
(Selected studies)
- III. Bach
- A. *Two Part Inventions*
B. *Three Part Inventions*
C. *The Well Tempered Clavichord*
D. Minuets
(One of the above selected)
- IV. Sonata
- Choice (Selected) } Beethoven
Mozart
Haydn
- V. Solo showing musicianship
- PIPE ORGAN
- I. Organ Studies (Selected)—
II. Solo from memory
III. Solo
IV. Accompaniment
V. Hymns
a. Selected
b. Read at sight
- VOICE
- I. Ability to sing sustained tones
II. Scales—Major
Minor Harmonic Melodic
Chromatic
- III. Studies (Selected)
A. One prepared
B. One at sight
- IV. Songs (Selected)
A. One prepared
B. One at sight
- VIOLIN
- I. Any major or melodic minor scale in two octaves
II. Following variations of *Sevcik* bowing
Technic Book I
- | | | | |
|---|----|----|----|
| 1 | 20 | 42 | 67 |
| 2 | 71 | 52 | 71 |
| 7 | 35 | 58 | 75 |
| | | | 80 |
| 8 | 39 | 64 | 81 |
- III. Following Studies from *Kayser* II
14, 15, 17, 20, 24
IV. Solo from memory accompanied by piano

It has been understood from the first that as the music department grows there will be more girls who may meet the requirements. When it is possible these requirements shall be raised, the idea being always to keep the club on as high a plane as is possible.

There are certain requirements which have to be met before application is made for membership in the Club. The applicant must be taking applied music at the time of her entrance. Naturally there are girls in school whose talent and previous training would warrant their admittance, but we take into consideration the fact that becoming a member of the *Æolian* Club means that we must work harder than ever in order that we may accomplish more, and our best work comes only under the intelligent supervision of an instructor. In other words, *Æolians* have achieved a certain degree of technique and enough insight into interpretation to take the study of music seriously. The Club serves as a stepping stone to something higher and better, but is not an end in itself.

We consider that it is necessary for a girl to have had experience in playing in public recitals before she becomes an *Æolian*. Should we allow her to come into the Club without this, she would find it almost, if not wholly, impossible to meet the demands made upon her.

Since her instructor has a better opportunity to judge her ability under varying conditions than has any one else, the applicant must be recommended by the teacher with whom she is studying. The fact that the teacher is judged by the results which she obtains from her pupils would serve as a check upon the teacher's recommendation, should such a check ever be needed.

A certain amount of theory is required of each prospective *Æolian*, and this work must be completed before she can be admitted into the Club.

C is the average grade at Harrisonburg, and we want the *Æolians* to rank at least

among the average students in their academic work. Of course their work in music must rank high.

A good attitude, enthusiasm and a willingness to take part in any activity which will further the interests of the Club are characteristic of the Aeolians. Should a member fall below these standards, she may be asked to withdraw from the Club and give up all the privileges which she has gained.

Before the Club became a reality, the members of the music faculty proposed the names of seventeen girls as charter members. They demanded high standards from the first, and as anxious as they all were to belong to this organization, many of the girls voted for standards which they hardly dared hope they could attain while in college. They also insisted that each girl who had been recommended take the examination in the proposed way before she could become a charter member. It is rather unusual to note that the last of these seventeen girls passed her examination just before school closed in June!

The co-operation, enthusiasm, and advice of the music faculty was invaluable to us, and without their help we could have accomplished little.

Perhaps the hardest work which we have done was that of organizing and determining the standards of the Club. Our regular meetings are held once every week. At this time we have interesting programs dealing with some phase of music or discuss any business matters which may have arisen. *Twilight Hour* is the name we have given to the short music hours we have on Sunday afternoons for the benefit of anyone who may care to attend them.

We have had several concerts, some given by Aeolian members and some by outside talent. These, as well as the programs which we have given in chapel, have been a part of our plan to make ours a more musical campus.

Since we have no membership fees, the problem of financing the Club is great. This year we have been able to give one three months scholarship in music, and we hope that by next year we will be able to make the scholarship a permanent one. A movement is being made by the Alumnae Aeolians to provide for this fund.

The results of our work on this campus have already been described. We hope that our influence has been felt in other ways than in those mentioned. The extension work up to this time has gone only as far as Radford, where the Beta chapter of Aeolians was established in December, 1925.

Entrance into the Aeolian Club requires much more than the mere desire to join a musical organization for social purposes. In the future we hope to have a wide-spread organization which will help raise the standards of the college musical clubs. If we can accomplish this, our field will indeed be great, and a permanent place will be assured us on the college campus.

MARION TRAVIS

ENGLISH NOTES

SIMPLER COURSES IN ENGLISH URGED

Declaring that King Arthur himself would have found a modern examination in Anglo-Saxon a harder task than defeating the Danes, Professor W. A. Craigie, editor of the Oxford Dictionary, who is now at the University of Chicago, recently made an appeal for simplified courses in the history of the English language. In addressing the Modern Language Association at its forty-second annual session in Chicago, Dr. Craigie said, "To imbue all students of English with some idea of how their language has come to have its present form and to inspire them with an appreciation of the respect and care with which it deserves to be treated should be the purpose of courses in the history of the language."